

DISTRACTION/SURVEILLANCE 002
Hani Rashid

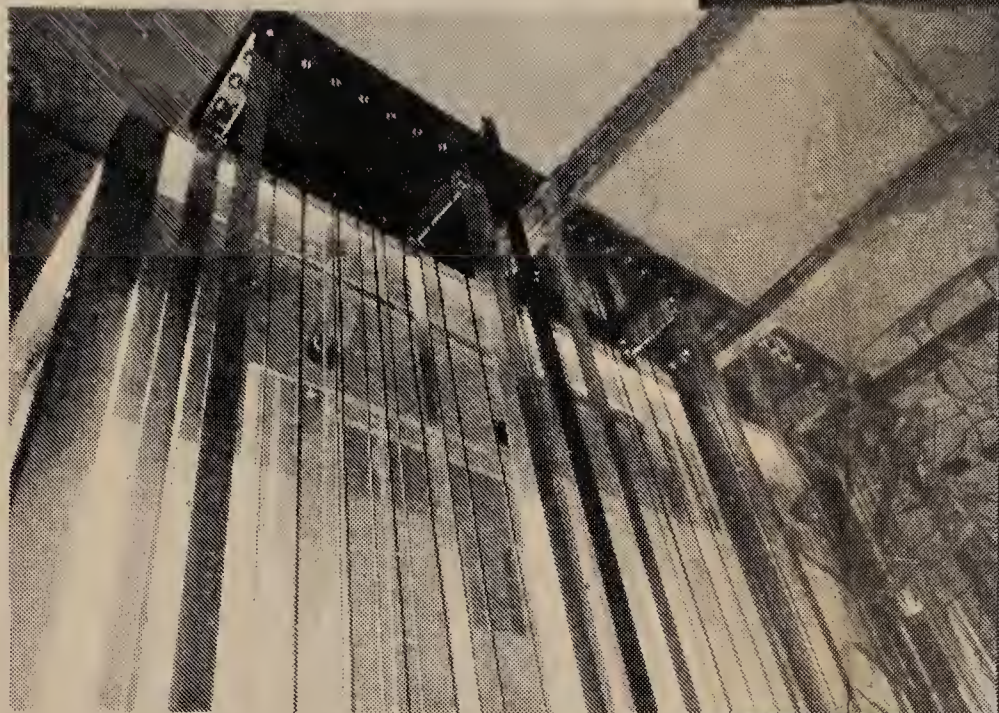
STOREFRONT

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

97 KENMARE STREET. NEW YORK. NY. 10012.

Hani Rashid

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Noise Wall, Chung-Ting Lo

THROUGHOUT THE AGES THE ABYSS OF SPACE CONCEALED PREDATORS, ENEMIES, PHANTOMS, MONSTERS AND ABOVE ALL ELSE UNCERTAINTY. FOR NAVIGATORS OF THE PAST, THE DECIPHERMENT OF TERRITORIES WAS RELIANT ON MEMORY AND VISUALIZATION. HERE DESCRIPTIVE GEOMETRY AND COMPLEX METHODS OF SURVEILLANCE SUSTAINED A CONSTANT MAPPING AND RE-MAPPING OF TERRESTRIAL AND STELLAR BODIES, AN ESSENTIAL PLOY FACILITATING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE VASTNESS OF THE COSMOS AND MAN'S SOLITARY POSITION WITHIN. THE LINEAGE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES THAT RESULTED FROM THIS UNYIELDING DESIRE TO COMPREHEND THE INCOMPREHENSIBILITY OF SPACE YIELDED AN ARRAY OF INVENTIONS FROM THE THEODOLITE AND TRANSIT AND ASTROLABE, LIGHTHOUSE, RADAR, AND CAMERA, FROM THE TELESCOPE AND MICROSCOPE TO MORSE CODE, THE TELEPHONE, RADIO AND TELEVISION. AND NOW CHANGE FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IS INFLUENCING A RADICAL SHIFT IN THE WAY WE PERCEIVE SPACE.

BY THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY MATHEMATICAL ABSTRACTION HAD FUSED WITH A TECHNOLOGICAL CERTITUDE YIELDING AN ARCHITECTURE LIBERATED FROM ITS OWN PROBLEMATIZED HISTORY AND NOSTALGIA. ARCHITECTS EMBRACED NEW AND RADICAL MODELS OF TRANSCENDENCE AND PERFECTION, WHERE THE MODERNIST PROJECT PREOCCUPATION WITH MACHINE-PARADIGMS AND HYGIENE SOUGHT OUT THE VERY EMBODIMENTS OF PERFECTION. SHIPS, LOCOMOTIVES, FACTORIES, AIRPLANES, AND ASSEMBLY LINES ALL CONTAINED THE SPIRIT, PRECISION AND LOGIC THAT WERE CRITICAL TO THE FORMING OF A NEW ARCHITECTURE. TO WHAT HIGHER IDEAL COULD ARCHITECTURE POSSIBLY RISE THAN TO EMULATE THE ELEGANCE OF THESE ARCHETYPES OF INGENUITY AND EFFICIENCY.

WHAT IS AN ARCHITECTURE EXTRACTED FROM DATA FIELDS, INFORMATION NETWORKS AND THE MEDIA? IS ARCHITECTURE IMPLICATED IN THE DELIRIUM OF PROGRESS AND THE CANONIZATION OF THE OBSOLETE? IS ARCHITECTURE CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING ITSELF THROUGH THIS PERIOD OF DELIRIUM WHERE THE PROLIFERATION OF IMAGES AND INFORMATION IS AN OMNIPOTENT EXPONENT OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE. SHOULD ARCHITECTURE CONTINUE ITS SUBORDINATION TO HISTORY, EMBRACING NOSTALGIA AND CERTAINLY, OR CAN IT ABANDON TIME WORN PROCEDURES AND METHODS AND PERUSE, ALBEIT BLINDLY, SOME UNCHARTED PATH INTO THE NEXT MILLENNIUM?

TO IMAGINE AN ARCHITECTURE RISING OUT OF THE DELUGE OF THE ECLECTIC, EMERGING AS IT WAS AN UTTERANCE, AS IF WITHOUT LANGUAGE, IS TO IMAGINE AN ARCHITECTURE THAT IS ANTICIPATORY AND IMPERFECT, AN ARCHITECTURE FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM.

Storefront for Art and Architecture is supported by major fundings from the LEF Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

FEB. 6 - MAR. 13 1993

GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY-SATURDAY 12-6 PM
 OPENING RECEPTION: FEBRUARY 6, SATURDAY, 6-8 PM



Scanning Wall, Chien-Ming Chao and Ray-Han Jin

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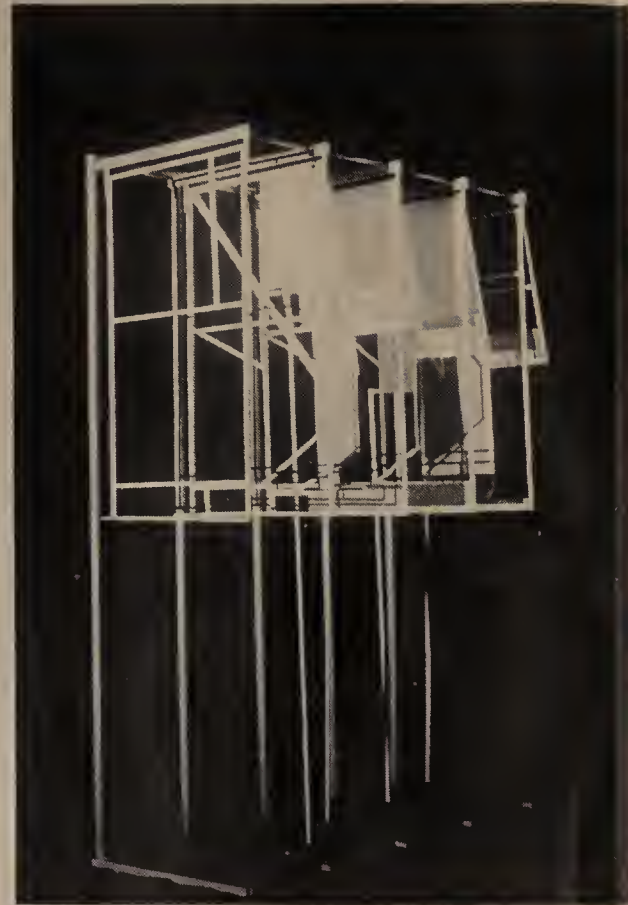
Distracube, overall view.

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97 KENMARE STREET, NEW YORK, NY, 10012, U.S.A. TEL: 212.431.5795

Defectant Precinct, Eric Worcester



Scanning Wall, Chien-Ming Chao and Ray-Han Jin



IT, PROPEL US ELOQUENTLY FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.

THE ATMOSPHERE'S EVER DECREASING CIRCUMFERENCE IS OFFSET BY OUR DESIRE TO LOCATE OTHER UNIVERSES. TO ESCAPE THE FALLING SKY WE HAVE DEvised WONDROUS INVENTIONS, TELESCOPES, PROBES, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES AND SPACE STATIONS. THESE INSTRUMENTS OF PROGRESS PROBE THE MINUSCULE PORTION OF SPACE THAT WE INHABIT WITH THE KEEN DELIBERATION OF THE EXECUTIONER. AND YET THE SKY CONTINUES TOWARDS COLLAPSE WITHOUT RESISTANCE.

A MICROCHIP OF AN INFINITESIMALLY MINUTE DIMENSION HAS BEEN DEVISED THAT WILL ALTER THE COMMODITY OF HISTORY.

IMAGINE IF YOU WILL A MEMORY EXCHANGE CONTAINING ALL OF HISTORY, EVERY SIGNIFICANT AND INSIGNIFICANT MORSEL OF INFORMATION. WITH SUCH A DEVICE ONE COULD BARTER AND TRADE DIMINISHING CERTAIN STOCKS WHILE INCREASING THE VALUE OF OTHERS. AT EACH MOMENT THE EXCHANGE WOULD BE ALTERED REVEALING A HISTORY OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

LIGHT LIBERATES ARCHITECTURE FROM ITS EARTHLY BONDAGE. THE TRAJECTORY OF ICARUS WAS A MAGNIFICENT ONE. THE LABYRINTH, GRAVITY LADEN AND FORTIFIED, WAS AFTER ALL THE WOMB IN WHICH DAEDELUS DEVISED THOSE MARVELOUS WINGS. THE ARCHITECT AND SON TOOK FLIGHT TOGETHER AWAY FROM THAT PRISTINE PRISON. ICARUS IN HIS YOUTHFUL FERVOR CHOSE LIGHT OVER FORM.

TECHNOLOGY, ALTHOUGH FOREVER ADVANCING SEEMS TO

PROPEL ARCHITECTURE FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM CONQUERING REASON. THE FIRST MARKS MADE BY HUMANKIND SIGNIFIED DWELLING AS A PRAGMATIC ORDER OF BEING. HERE ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY WERE BORN TOGETHER, TWINS THAT NOW IN RIVAL EACH OTHER. WHILE THE FIRST SPEAKS OF ITS NEED FOR FREEDOM AND LIBERTY THE LATTER IS PREOCCUPIED WITH DEFIANCE AND PREJUDICE.

A FAX TRANSMITTED FROM SOME FAR OFF PLACE CARRIES WITH IT A VIRUS THAT WILL INEVITABLY ALTER ARCHITECTURE. THE TRANSMISSION IN QUESTION IS A CONTRACT. THE INFORMATION ON THE READOUT CONTAINS A VAST ARRAY OF VARIABLES AND CONTINGENCIES. THERE IS HOWEVER A CLAUSE WHICH IF ACCURATELY READ REVEALS THAT THE RANDOM MUST CO-SIGN WITH INVISIBLE REALMS AND TERRAIN OF HOPE.

AIRPLANES DO NOT DEFEY GRAVITY BUT RATHER HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WIND. I'VE MONITORED THESE DISCUSSIONS ON OCCASION. OFTEN THE SUBJECTS OF MOST INTEREST ARE THOSE DEALING WITH FEAR AND DESPAIR. THE WIND USUALLY ARGUES THAT IT IS THAT WHICH DRIVES MAN INTO HER BREAST AND THE WING QUICKLY RETORTS THAT BY ADJUSTMENT IT CAN CONQUER SUCH WEAKNESS.

IN A MIRROR WHERE ALL IS INVERTED, SPACE CONGEALS INTO A LIQUID NOT UNLIKE MERCURY. WITH THE

A view of Defectant Precinct, Eric Worcester



APPROPRIATE GEAR ONE MAY PASS THROUGH MIRRORS AND SWIM IN THE DENSE INTERIOR. ORPHEUS FELL THROUGH SUCH AN APERTURE TO RESCUE EURYDICE FROM DEATH. IN THIS ZONE THERE IS NO DIMENSION OR DIRECTION, ONLY LIGHT THAT ASSISTS IN PROPULSION.

THE LUNAR SMILE HAS FREQUENTLY SEDUCED MAN TO DISROBE HER. THIS RELENTLESS COURTSHIP REVEALED THAT MAN IS AFTER ALL NOT BOUND TO EARTH WHEN EROS SITS PATIENTLY IN THE WINGS.

HAVING PERFORMED THE JIG ON THE MOON'S SURFACE, MAN IS IN NEED OF A NEW BALLROOM.

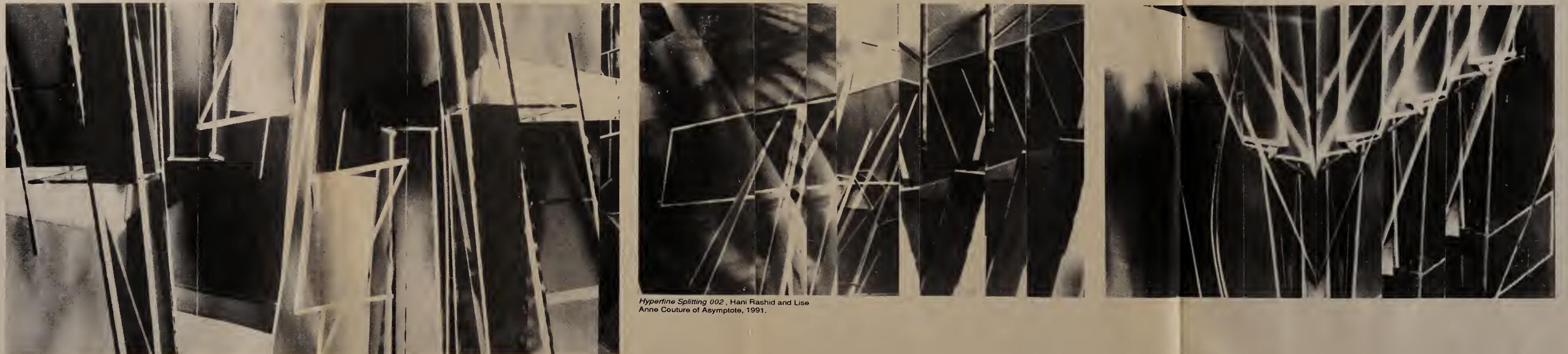
RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS ARE NOW NEEDED TO MONITOR NOT THE EARTH'S SURFACE BUT RATHER OTHER RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS. IT IS OF NO VALUE TO PROBE THE LANDSCAPE DURING WAR TIME AS THEY REMAIN UNCERTAIN DESPITE ALL MEASURES. RATHER IT IS FAR MORE COMPELLING TO COMPREHEND COMPREHENDING.

EVADING RADAR IS A MOST EXPENSIVE PUBLIC ART PROJECT. THOSE IGNOMINIOUS MACHINES DO NOT OFFEND PUBLIC TASTE, REMAIN UNSEEN AND ARE WITHOUT PRETENSION.

Defectant Precinct, Eric Worcester

Distraction is an installation by final year students at Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation of Columbia University, in collaboration with Hani Rashid. The project was completed in December 1992, and is reinstalled with variations at Storefront.

Hyperfine Splitting 002 is a project of Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture of Asymptote, completed in 1991.



Hyperfine Splitting 002, Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture of Asymptote, 1991.

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The Architecture, Planning and Design Program is pleased to announce the availability of project grants for architects, designers and scholars through its Independent Project Category.

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be available for architects, designers and scholars to realize specific projects which advance the field and contribute to the public's understanding of the designed environment; for example, development of design prototypes, historical studies of building types, or explorations of new technology for the design fields. The program is particularly interested in innovative ideas being explored outside of traditional practice. Individuals whose work is not broadly known are encouraged to apply.

For NYSCA guidelines or assistance with the application process, please call Anne Van Ingen or Deborah Norden at (212) 387-7013. All applications are due on March 1, 1993. There will be an open meeting at Architectural League, 457 Madison Avenue (at 51st Street), February 4th, 1993, 6:30pm., (212) 753-1722.

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